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COMNAVAIRLANT/
COMNAVAIRPACINST 1414.2

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COMNAVAIRLANT/COMNAVAIRPAC INSTRUCTION 1414.2

Subj: ENLISTED AVIATION WARFARE SPECIALIST (EAWS) QUALIFICATION PROGRAM

Ref: (a) OPNAVINST 3541.1E
(b) NAVEDTRA 43100-1D

1. Purpose. To implement the requirements for qualification and designation of Navy enlisted personnel as EAWS on warfighting, mission enhancement, command survivability, and pride.
2. Administrative remarks. This joint instruction is issued as further guidance in the administration of the EAWS program, which are particular to aviation commands. OPNAVINST 1414.2A is the Navy-wide directive dealing with fundamental guidance of the EAWS program. This joint instruction shall not be considered a superceding directive over OPNAVINST 1414.2A.
3. Discussion. Attainment of the EAWS designation signifies that enlisted members achieved a level of significant professional skills, knowledge, and experience in the direct support of the Naval Air Warfare Mission and the specific unit they are currently serving. Wearers of the Air Warfare pin stand out as significant contributors to the mission of their respective warfare unit. EAWS may only be obtained through the formal qualification program set forth in this instruction.

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Under normal circumstances, the Command Master Chief (CMC) shall be designated as the unit's EAWS coordinator. Commanding Officers (CO) and CMCs shall ensure that the standards and procedures required to initially qualify and requalify as an EAWS are meticulously maintained.

4. Eligibility. EAWS qualification recognizes the efforts of enlisted individuals trained in Naval Air Warfare Operations. Therefore, eligibility to attain the EAWS designation is limited to the following:

a. Enlisted personnel, both USN and Training and Administration Reserve (TAR), currently assigned to naval aviation operational squadrons ashore and afloat whose aircraft/type specific platforms fit within the current EAWS program curriculum, and make vital contributions to the naval war fighting mission. Exceptions will be training squadrons, i.e. VT, HT, etc., and squadrons that have no resident aviation assets, but who may actually be deployed staffs, i.e. TACRON. Those ships that have aviation support capability such as CG, DD, LPD, AO, AOE, FFG, etc., as a secondary to their primary warfighting mission are not considered aviation commands. They lack sufficient indigenous aviation assets that are required to sustain a credible air warfare specialist program. Shore duty commands such as Naval Air Stations are support platforms and will not establish EAWS programs, nor will personnel assigned to those support platforms be enrolled in a program. If a command which qualifies under the guidelines above does not have an established EAWS program, the Commanding Officer or Officer in Charge, may enroll members in the EAWS program of another qualifying activity of the same type/specific unit. Sea Operation Detachments (SEAOPDETs) shall enroll their personnel in their assigned CV/CVN EAWS program. Specifically, the following personnel/commands are eligible to have or participate in EAWS programs:

(1) All deployable aviation squadrons and their detachments.

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(2) Fleet Replacement Squadrons, (VF-101, VFA-106, VFA-122, VAW-120, HS-10, VS-41, VAQ-129, HC-2, HC-3, HSL-40, HSL-41, HMT-301, HMT-302, and VP-30).

(3) Air Test and Evaluation Squadrons (VX).

(4) Aviation capable ships, defined as ships whose main mission is to conduct and support air operations and that have indigenous aviation assets, limited to CV, CVN, LPH, LHA, LHD, and MCS.

(5) Aviation staffs afloat (CVW), staffs other than CVW, or detachment personnel, i.e., CCG, EOD, Seal Team, etc., who have completed all other eligibility requirements, may participate if they are making a deployment of at least 180 continuous days embarked in an aviation capable ship (CV, CVN, LPH, LHA, LHD, and MCS). Additionally, staff or detachment personnel shall only use the EAWS program of the ship in which they are embarked.

(6) Navy personnel assigned to HMT squadrons will establish their own program under the cognizance of their appropriate HELTACWING CMC. The collateral duty CMC or LCPO assigned to the squadron will act as on-site coordinator and will forward all requests for final qualification to the appropriate HELTACWING CMC for approval and signature by the HELTACWING Commodore. Opportunity to qualify EAWS in an HMT squadron is intended for U.S. Navy personnel only and will not be accorded to Marine Corps personnel.

(7) SEAOPDET personnel may participate in the program of the ship in which they are embarked, but may not establish a program of their own.

b. All personnel assigned to Pre-Commissioning Units (PCUs) may complete those portions of the EAWS qualification program which do not require the ship to be underway; however, Prospective CO's of the PCUs may not award final EAWS qualification to PCU crew members until after commissioning.

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c. CO's of ships that are in extensive overhauls, such as Refueling Complex Overhaul (RCOH), may suspend their program for the period when their ship is not habitable or is incapable of providing the assets for qualification.

d. Enlisted Selected Reservists (SELRES)

(1) Participation in the EAWS program for Selected Reservists assigned to type 2 or 4 duty will be under the direct cognizance of Commander Naval Reserve Force (COMNAVRESFOR). All timelines set forth in this instruction for qualification or requalification will not apply to SELRES participants. However, any SELRES personnel who are qualified EAWS and who are reassigned to a different warfare platform, must requalify EAWS for their new platform. Training and Administration Reserve (TAR) personnel assigned to active duty units that are authorized to conduct EAWS qualification programs are required to participate fully in accordance with the guidelines set forth in this instruction.

(2) SELRES must be assigned to a Commissioned Reserve Force Squadron (RESFORON) or Naval Reserve Force (NRF) aviation capable ship and:

(a) Be in a satisfactory drill status.

(b) Complete at least two periods of Reserve Annual Training.

5. Standards. Members who meet the eligibility requirements of paragraph 4 may be enrolled in a formal EAWS qualification program. Candidates for initial EAWS qualification will have 18 months from date of enrollment to complete all requirements. Official enrollment in EAWS shall be entered on a Page 13 of the enlisted service record as follows:

"(Date) Enrolled this date in the Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialists (EAWS) Program for (platform type)."

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If the member has not qualified as EAWS within 18 months following enrollment, or re-qualified within 12 months, and, in the estimation of the CMC and the CO, has failed to make significant progress toward final qualification or re-qualification, the member shall be disenrolled from the EAWS program. Disenrollment shall be documented by a service record Page 13 entry.

a. Candidates for EAWS shall:

(1) Meet the eligibility requirements of paragraph 4.

(2) Complete the following academic pre-requisites prior to enrollment or prior to final qualification:

(a) Aviation Maintenance Ratings (NAVEDTRA 12017).

(b) All PQS and qualification for those watchstations to which the member's particular rating, Navy Enlisted Classification, and/or pay grade is normally assigned prior to final qualification.

(c) All requirements for advancement to the next higher pay grade (with the exception of time in rate and time in service) prior to final qualification.

(d) Where applicable, be qualified in basic damage control prior to final qualification, in accordance with reference (a).

(e) Where applicable, have completed aircraft/shipboard fire fighting prior to final qualification, in accordance with reference (a).

(f) Successfully complete the common core (NAVEDTRA 43902) and unit specific PQS within 18 months of entry into the program.

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b. Once all requirements in paragraph 5a are completed, EAWS candidates will attain final qualifications by demonstrating a comprehensive knowledge of the Naval Air Warfare mission and their current unit's mission. Candidates' knowledge will be assessed by:

(1) Passing a 100-question written examination. If a member fails the written test, another test may be administered within a prescribed timeframe, normally 30 days, at the discretion of the CMC. The CMC will maintain the question/answer key.

(2) A hands-on (where applicable) demonstration of knowledge.

(3) A comprehensive oral examination by the command's Qualification Review Board (QRB). The command QRB shall consist of a minimum of at least three senior enlisted members who are EAWS qualified. The chairperson shall be the CMC or a representative specifically appointed by the CMC, and will be designated in writing by the CO. If a member fails the oral review board, another board may be conducted within a prescribed timeframe, normally 30 days, at the discretion of the CMC.

c. EAWS candidates should achieve EAWS qualification prior to a permanent change of station (PCS). If EAWS qualification is not attained prior to the PCS transfer, or in the case of SEAOPDET, prior to transferring from one CV/CVN to another, the EAWS program coordinator shall place a "Memorandum for the Record" in the member's enlisted service record field jacket certifying those PQS sections completed, and a brief statement about why the member failed to qualify. If the gaining command has an authorized EAWS program, the gaining command should recognize the PQS attainment to date. However, the receiving command may require a demonstration of knowledge in these areas prior to that recognition. Regardless of PCS transfer prior to completion of the qualification process, total time for completion of common core and unit specific PQS cannot exceed 18 months.

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d. SEAOPDET personnel who enroll in and successfully complete the program on the ship in which deployed, will be designated EAWS by the CO of the ship in which their detachment was deployed.

e. Management of EAWS Qualification Program integrity:

(1) COs shall approve EAWS designation for only those enlisted personnel permanently assigned to their command, with the exception of SEAOPDET personnel designated in paragraph 5a. Additionally, they will ensure that all PQS qualifiers are properly selected, trained, and re-qualified in accordance with the re-qualification requirements of this instruction, and designated in writing in accordance with reference (b).

(2) CMCs or their specifically appointed representative(s) shall function as the command EAWS Coordinator(s). However, the CMC shall retain overall responsibility for the management and operation of the command's EAWS program. The CMC will establish and be responsible for the operation of the command's Quality Review Board (QRB). Additionally, the CMC will maintain the EAWS question/answer master key. CMCs and EAWS coordinators must ensure the spirit and intent of this instruction are being followed by members of their command. This should be accomplished through direct involvement in the EAWS qualification process, monitoring of candidates' progress, and evaluation of the professional performance of personnel qualified as EAWS within their command.

6. Qualification/Re-qualification:

a. All personnel will have 18 months to complete the EAWS qualification after official enrollment. All E5 and above personnel will be enrolled as soon as they report on board, or as soon as they are frocked or advanced to E5. This time limit will be adjusted to compensate for time lost through official Temporary Additional Duty (TAD) assignment during the qualification time period that may require the member to be out

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of the parent command, such as assignment to school, and will be appropriately documented utilizing service record Page 13 entries. Once all requirements set forth in this instruction are met, initial qualification shall be documented and recognized as follows:

(1) Appropriate entry for completion of PQS on a service record Page 4.

(2) Service record Page 13 entry as follows:

"(Date) Qualified as an Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialists (EAWS) (platform type) this date and assigned the Enlisted Aviation Warfare (AW) designator."

(3) The cognizant personnel office from the qualifying command will submit the appropriate Diary Message Reporting System (DMRS) entry at the time of qualification.

(4) CO's will recognize EAWS designation at an appropriate ceremony awarding the EAWS breast insignia, and optional certificate, (OPNAV 1414/1), and include attainment of qualification in the member's next evaluation/fitness report.

b. Once qualification has been achieved, transfer to another command authorized to conduct an EAWS program will require re-qualification as follows:

(1) Transfer between same type platforms/units.

(a) When an individual transfers between units of the same type, the individual must requalify by demonstrating general knowledge of the new unit's overall mission through an oral examination administered by the QRB. Upon satisfactory demonstration of knowledge, a recommendation will be made to the CO for final re-qualification.

(b) An individual renewing qualification on same type platform/unit will not be required to complete the entire platform/unit specific PQS previously completed. However, in accordance with reference (b), tailored unit specific PQS may be used to facilitate re-qualification.

(c) All personnel will have 12 months to requalify in a new unit. This 12-month period will begin on the date the member is received for duty, as entered on the service record Page 5. Commencement and completion of the re-qualification process will also be documented by a service record Page 13 entry. This time limit will be adjusted to compensate for time loss through official TAD assignment away from the parent command during the first 12 months. Adjustments will be documented by service record Page 13 entry as required.

(2) Transfer between different platform/unit types:

(a) When an individual transfers between units of differing types, the individual shall demonstrate general knowledge of the unit's overall mission through completion of the platform/unit specific PQS, pass a 100-question written examination, hands-on demonstrations of knowledge, and an oral examination administered by the QRB.

(b) All personnel will have 12 months to requalify in a new unit. This 12-month period will begin on the date the member is received for duty, as entered on the service record Page 5. Commencement and completion of the re-qualification process will also be documented by a service record Page 13 entry. This time limit will be adjusted to compensate for time loss through official TAD assignment away from the parent command during the first 12 months. Adjustments will be documented by a service record Page 13 entry as required.

c. Once all requirements have been satisfactorily completed in accordance with this instruction, re-qualification shall be annotated in the enlisted service record field jacket as follows:

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(1) Appropriate entry for completion of PQS on Page 4.

(2) Page 13 entry as follows:

"(Date) Re-qualified as an Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS) (platform type) this date."

(3) The cognizant personnel office from the qualifying command will submit the appropriate Diary Message Reporting System (DMRS) entry at the time of re-qualification.

7. Disqualification

a. Members previously qualified may be disqualified by the commanding officer if:

(1) At any time they fail to complete EAWS re-qualification within the prescribed time limit.

(2) At any time they commit violations of safe maintenance practices established by instruction/directive that endangers equipment or personnel or both and is grounds for suspension of qualification as QAR/CDI, or disciplinary action under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

b. Formal notice of disqualification shall be recorded in the member's enlisted service record field jacket as follows:

"(Date): Failed to maintained qualification as an Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist (EAWS) by (include specific rationale for disqualification). Member has been informed that as of this date he/she is disqualified and is no longer authorized to wear the EAWS insignia or use the (AW) designator as part of his/her rating."

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c. Upon disqualification a special evaluation/fitness report shall be submitted for the purpose of documenting disqualification. The evaluation/fitness report should specify the reason for disqualification.

d. After receiving approval from the CO, re-qualification attempts after disqualification shall follow the initial qualification process.

8. Waivers. In the interest of standardization, waiver request(s) for any part of this instruction must be submitted to the respective Force Master Chief.

9. Forms. Enlisted Aviation Warfare Specialist certificates, OPNAV 1414/1(6-96), S/N 0107-LF-113-5100 may be ordered through Navy Supply sources per CD ROM NAVSUP PUB 600 (NLL).



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